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Newsletter

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GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

February 21, 1951

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

Is "Graduate School"

a misnomer? At the faculty dinner Chairman Bushrod Allen implied that it was. Then, as you recall, Bush amusingly cited his own radio fan mail to show that any good name can be questioned. You will be interested to know that about 27 percent of the 1949-50 resident enrollment was composed of students who hold bachelor's degrees. The record indicates there were 570 students with master's degrees, 78 PhD's, 21 MD's, and 84 LLB's registered last year. If you haven't already seen our report on educational statistics, you may be interested in looking over a copy. Compiled primarily for use in program evaluation and planning by the staff and departmental committees, the report contains 16 tables and 8 charts and gives a fairly detailed statistical picture of GS registration for the past year.

Greatest financial peril

confronting higher education in the United States today is the prospect of further inflation, says the Commission of Financing Higher Education, an independent body sponsored by the Association of American Universities and financed by grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation.

"Rising education costs," the report continues, "will bring proposals for some kind of general Federal government subsidy to higher education. Fiscal policies to halt inflationary trends would constitute a major contribution by the federal government to the welfare of higher education. If inflation continues, a federal subsidy would not catch up with or adequately alleviate the dire effects of inflation upon our colleges and universities. Further inflation is a clear and present danger to the continued financial ability of higher education to perform its essential services."

Have you seen

"Getting Your Ideas Across Through Writing", training manual No. 7 of FSA's Division of Personnel Management? Milton Hall, who wrote the 44-page printed booklet, says it "is not a text on the art of writing - rather a practical guide to writing without art - the hard plain job of getting ideas across to others." He has done a most effective job showing how this can be done. This publication can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents for .25 cents.

Training by television

is now a reality for Naval Reservists at 19 area centers in New York City. "Drill Call," a half-hour show telecast each Tuesday evening from the ONR's Special Devices Center on Long Island, is used to supplement conventional teaching. It is tied into regular classroom work by instruction and test sheets for trainees and by special literature for instructors to use in preparing the lectures and discussions. An evaluation stresses the advantage of television in reaching large and scattered audiences with a highly standardized curriculum. In cooperation with the Special Devices Center, the Census Bureau has experimented with training enumerators for the decennial count by television.

Our first information on the Navy's research project from which "Drill Call" has evolved came from Dana Reynolds, who with other members of USDA's Radio Service, pioneered a GS course in television. While on a two-weeks tour of active duty at the Center in September 1949, Dana prepared a 41-page mimeographed report on the project...suggested that other government agencies, educational institutions, and representatives of the television industry use the Center to conduct joint research in planning and administering a program for training by television.

The Civil Defense Act of 1950

provides authority for the training of personnel, points out Earl J. McGrath, U. S. Commissioner of Education in a recent DEFENSE INFORMATION BULLETIN. He adds, "The Administrator also has authority to conduct and arrange for training programs for civil defense officials and other personnel. Training programs for civil defense personnel may be arranged by contracts or otherwise and are to serve for instruction related to the organization, operations, and techniques of civil defense." Incidentally, Commissioner McGrath and his staff are doing a top-flight job in getting information of this type out quickly to school people throughout the country.

Electronic processing

of paper work will be considered in a series of 6 meetings scheduled by the Society for the Advancement of Management on Wednesday evenings beginning February 21. The first will be held February 21 in the East Lecture Hall and Computation Laboratory at the National Bureau of Standards. The series will be of interest to committee members and instructors in the Department of Office Techniques and Operations.

You can have visuals

in your GS classes or in committee and other USDA meetings during the day if equipment is all that you need. This is just by way of reminder that we have a baliopticon, two projectors for 3¼ x 4¼ slides, a 35mm slide and film strip projector, and a disc recorder and playback. Call Mrs. Ruth Carlock on extension 6337 if you wish to borrow them.

The old saw

that a committee keeps minutes and wastes hours is often quoted but as the Graduate School RECORD of Ohio State University points out, "A person experienced in academic circles thinks of committees as valuable elements in university life. He considers them a check on autocratic acts by the administration and an expression of the faculty's expertness in educational matters. He does not regard time spent in committee work as wasted, although he admits his patience is sometimes tried by dilatory tactics and the desire of other committee members to talk ad libitum. On the whole, he prefers the "committee system" of educational administration with all its inconveniences, to autocratic direction of university affairs with all its exclusions."

A book coupon scheme

was rather cautiously launched by UNESCO two years ago to start books moving across borders previously closed by foreign exchange controls. Today the UNESCO coupons have joined the scant ranks of currencies accepted in most parts of the world. The recent issue of Coupon No. F-0094 to France brought the total issue of coupons above the million mark. In any of 20 countries, one can now order a book from abroad and pay for it with a UNESCO coupon. The same holds true for educational films in 13 countries and scientific apparatus in 11...says a UNESCO news release.

A new national association

for professional and non-professional workers in adult education is to be formed at a conference in Columbus, Ohio, May 13-15. The first national conference of the new association has been scheduled for October 22-25 in Los Angeles. Plans for the new association call for the development of consultation and field services, advanced in-service education, professional publications program, and the maintenance of close relations with the major national organizations and institutions in the field.

A variation of the sabbatical

that holds great promise for federal workers is the new training legislation proposed by the Civil Service Commission. Under this bill scientific, technical, professional, and administrative employees could be assigned with pay and expenses for study periods in a school, laboratory, or industry. The opportunity would be limited to 18 months of any 10-year period and except in cases of national emergency, two-years experience on-the-job would be required for eligibility.

Ambassador Goubaud-Carrera

of Guatemala was among the participants at the Point IV seminar, February 1. An anthropologist of note, the Ambassador came to hear the discussion led by Raymond Moyer of ECA who is now working with the Chinese Commission on the Formosan question.

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ABOUT OURSELVES

John C. Cooper, assistant director of Budget and Finance, has been appointed to replace William H. Rowe as chairman of the committee on commercial and government accounting. Mr. Rowe, who has contributed ably to GS development, will continue as instructor in principles of accounting.

Herbert G. Marshall, assistant chief of the Division of Audit (B&F), has drawn up procedures of GS bookstore and publication sales that will make for efficient operation and provide the controls recommended by the committee on audit.

A nice tribute to Virgil L. Couch's work in developing flexible and mobile personnel policies for ECA was paid recently by that agency's Administrator William C. Foster. Mr. Foster said he had never seen a more competent group of men engaged in a single enterprise than that in ECA...due in part to the efficient and imaginative personnel policies of the Personnel Division directed by Mr. Couch. The agency has secured competent talent from all walks of life, staffed offices in approximately 18 European countries. Mr. Couch, chairman of GS Department of Office Techniques and Operations, early this month has joined the Civil Defense Administration as deputy administrator for Administration. He is retiring president of the Society of Personnel Administration, chairman of the employee relations committee and a member of the personnel management committee of the Federal Personnel Council.

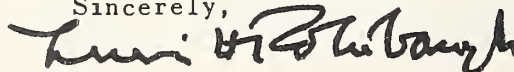
H. R. Josephson (Social Sciences) has been named chief of the Division of Forest Economics in Forest Service. In his new capacity he is in charge of forest and range economic research programs. These include the national survey of forest resources, studies of military and other requirements for wood and wood products, and other investigations of the economic problems of forest land owners and forest industries.

Fillmore Stanford, executive secretary of the American Psychological Association, has joined the GS staff to teach course No. 210, General Psychology.

John Jay Corson (Public Administration) is directing a study to determine factors keeping able men from taking government assignments and to suggest ways of attracting talent and character to the Federal service. The study is under the joint auspices of the Carnegie Corporation and the Public Administration Clearing House.

Patricia Fordyce, a student in Captain J. A. Saunders' course in "The Application of General Semantics", has written an article giving suggestions for training children in the principles of General Semantics. It will be published in a forthcoming issue of the BULLETIN published by the Institute of General Semantics.

Sincerely,



Director